Morning Prayer with the LWF’s Ecumenical Commitments

Ecumenical Centre Chapel, Geneva

Wednesday, 16 January 2019

Welcome

Welcome to today’s morning prayer. Our prayer focuses on the Lutheran World Federation’s “Ecumenical Commitments”. There are copies in various languages available for you take, read and share with your networks.

The Ecumenical Commitments document strongly reiterates the Lutheran Communion’s commitment to ecumenical spirituality. So today as part of the international launch of this document, we pray together with Christians from different traditions for the unity of the body of Christ.

Let us keep a moment’s silence.

Call to Worship

L: Let us worship the Triune God.
    You are the one God now and forever.

C: We come to worship you.

L: Jesus Christ, you are the source of our unity.

C: We come to worship you.

L: Holy Spirit, you inspire our hearts to long for unity.

C: We come to worship you.
Je sus calls us here to meet him as, through word and song and prayer,
we affirm God's promised presence where God's people live and care.
Praise the God who keeps the promise; praise the Son who calls us friends;
praise the Spirit who, among us, to our hopes and fears attends.
4. Jesus calls us to his table, rooted firm in time and space,
where the church in earth and heaven finds a common meeting place.
Share the bread and wine, his body, share the love of which we sing,
join the faithful and the doubter in their common search for truth.

Scripture reading: Ephesians 4:4
We will now read a verse from Paul's letter to the Ephesians. This verse has been an inspiration for the writing of the Ecumenical Commitments.

Let us listen to the Word of God.

C: There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling.

Song: Somos uno (2x in Spanish)
The Lutheran World Federation’s Commitments on the Ecumenical Way to Ecclesial Communion

This document seeks to promote ecumenism, to give visible expression to the unity of the body of Christ.

The Ecumenical Commitments encourage vibrant interactions between local ecumenical realities and global ecumenical processes. The document promotes bringing forms of ecumenism - such as theological dialogues, diaconal witness, advocacy and shared spiritual life - into closer cooperation. Overall, it is a working document. We encourage you to work with the Ecumenical Commitments, and we very much welcome feedback.

It comes in two parts: The first part offers theological reflections about ecumenism. It looks at the Lutheran understanding of ecumenism and at the LWF’s ecumenical relations. The second part is the core of the document. It contains six ecumenical commitments, each of these includes a strong self-commitment to Christian unity as well as suggestions for practical application.

Please stand as you are able to make these commitments together.

Song: Somos uno (1x in Spanish)

The LWF’s Ecumenical Commitments

Commitment 1: We commit ourselves to ecumenism in a variety of forms, locally and globally, to bring the unity of Christ’s body into expression in all ways possible.

Commitment 2: We commit ourselves to using clear terminology and coherent language in dialogue with our ecumenical partners.

Song: Somos uno (1x in Spanish)

Commitment 3: We commit ourselves to continuing and renewing bilateral dialogues in a way that fully reflects the diversity of our communion.

Commitment 4: We commit ourselves to enhancing ecumenical reception, and to being part of local to global reception processes.

Song: Somos uno (1x in Spanish)

Commitment 5: We commit ourselves to an ecumenism which values pastoral challenges and opportunities facing local communities.
Commitment 6: We commit ourselves to an ecumenical spirituality that deepens our common prayer life with our ecumenical partners, and helps the spiritual reception of ecumenical processes.

Song: Somos uno (1x in Spanish)

Please be seated.

Prayer

L: Let us raise to our gracious God our common prayer for the Church and for the needs of all humanity. We pray for the visible unity of the Church. Lead us to fulfil Jesus’ prayer that we may be one and work together to manifest your Kingdom. We ask you:

C: Gracious God, hear our prayer and grant us passion for Christian unity.

L: We thank you for the rich diversity. In our differences, unite us by your love. Enable us to act together to make this world a just and peaceful place for all humanity and to preserve your creation. We ask you:

C: Gracious God, hear our prayer and grant us your peace.

The Lord’s Prayer (in our many languages)

Blessing

L: May God embrace us with love and fill our hearts with compassion for unity. May God grant us humility and give perseverance to nurture unity.

C: Amen.